

JUL 25 2007

Appln. No. 10/796,215

Attorney Docket No. 10000-353
Client Reference No. PA-5377-RFB**II. Remarks**

Claims 1-35 of the present application are pending and rejected. By this Paper, claims 1, 11, 23, and 35 have been amended and claims 29-34 have been canceled. With the amendments and remarks provided herewith, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections to the claims.

Claims 1, 11, 23, and 35 have been amended to recite that the first tubular portion has "a predetermined outside diameter" and that the introducer catheter has a "passageway to define an inside diameter." Claims 1, 11, 23, and 35 have also been amended to recite that the outside diameter of the first tubular portion is "slightly less than the inside diameter of the introducer catheter to effectively occupy the inside diameter so as to provide rigidity and support for pushing the stent through the introducer catheter and to reduce the likelihood and severity of kinking in the introducer catheter." Support for such amendments may be found in the Figures 1-2 of the drawings and paragraph [0022] of the present application. Thus, no new matter has been added.

Moreover, claim 23 has been amended to recite that the pusher assembly is "a single continuous member" and that the second tubular portion is "integrally extending from the first portion, the second tubular portion having a smaller diameter and a thinner wall than the first tubular portion for more flexibility." Support for such amendments may be found in Figure 6 of the drawings and paragraph [0034] of the present application. Thus, no new matter has been added.

Furthermore, claim 35 has been amended to recite that the second tubular portion is "extending along the entire length of the first tubular portion." Support for such amendment may be found in Figure 5 of the drawings and paragraph [0033] of the present application. Thus, no new matter has been added.

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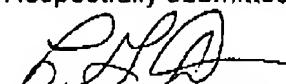
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Claims 1-28 and 35 are now in a condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence G. Almeda (Reg. No. 46,151)

July 25, 2007
Date

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